

SHERIFF

PROGRAM:

Domestic Violence/Special Operations

PROGRAM ELEMENT:
PROGRAM MISSION:

To provide law enforcement services to domestic violence victims by effecting swift service of Exparte Orders, Interim and Temporary Protective Orders (after December 1, 2002), Protective Orders, and Temporary Peace Orders, and by performing "welfare checks" of victims^a

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES SUPPORTED:

- Safe individuals and families
- Assistance to domestic violence victims
- Respect for the law

PROGRAM MEASURES

	FY01 ACTUAL	FY02 ACTUAL	FY03 ACTUAL	FY04 BUDGET	FY05 CE REC
Outcomes/Results:					
Number of "welfare check" violations resulting in arrest ^a	11	8	2	7	5
Purchases of handguns denied as a result of MILES and NCIC entries ^b	0	0	0	2	2
Number of weapons seized as a result of Exparte and Protective Orders	98	100	40	100	80
Service Quality:					
Percentage of Exparte Orders, Interim and Temporary Protective Orders ^c within Montgomery County attempted within 6 hours of being brought to the Sheriff's Office	75	80	80	80	80
Percentage of Exparte Orders, Interim and Temporary Protective Orders within Montgomery County attempted within 12 hours of being brought to the Sheriff's Office	100	100	100	100	100
Percentage of Exparte Orders, Interim and Temporary Protective Orders served ^{d,e}	80	81	82	82	78
Percentage of Interim and Temporary Peace Orders served	80	83	82	75	77
Percentage of domestic violence victims issued cell phones when requested	100	100	100	100	100
Percentage of Interim and Temporary Protective Orders and Protective Orders entered into MILES and NCIC within 12 hours ^b	100	100	100	99	100
Efficiency:					
Exparte, Interim and Temporary Protective and Peace Orders served per workyear	124.3	119.6	106.2	105.9	106.4
Cost per Exparte, Interim and Temporary Protective and Peace Orders and Temporary Peace Orders served (\$)	489	531	662	639	638
Workload/Outputs:					
Number of Exparte Orders, Interim and Temporary Protective Orders received and closed	1,985	2,131	2,006	2,150	2,380
Number of Exparte Orders, Interim and Temporary Protective Orders served ^f	1,593	1,728	1,653	1,762	1,850
Number of "welfare checks" completed	3,940	4,998	4,803	4,900	4,440
Number of Interim and Temporary Peace Orders received and closed	871	1,085	1,076	1,380	1,470
Number of Interim and Temporary Peace Orders served	695	903	884	1,034	1,130
Number of ADT pendants issued ^g	18	16	3	20	12
Number of cell phones available for issue	500	500	500	500	500
Inputs:					
Expenditures (\$000)	1,118	1,397	1,679	1,787	1,901
Workyears	18.4	22.0	23.9	26.4	28.0

Notes:

^aWelfare checks involve efforts by Sheriff's deputies to ensure that victims are safe and court orders are being obeyed after the issuance of an Exparte or Interim/Temporary Protective Order. (See "EXPLANATION.")

^bMILES and NCIC are national law enforcement databases.

^cAs of December 1, 2002, Exparte Orders were replaced by Interim and Temporary Protective Orders.

^dThe percentage of orders served includes orders served by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and orders served by neighboring law enforcement agencies at the request of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office (for persons who reside within the jurisdiction of those agencies). The measure is, therefore, only partly controllable by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

^eReasons for the Sheriff's inability to serve an Exparte or Interim/Temporary Protective Order after it is received include an invalid address for the respondent, a respondent who is avoiding service, or a respondent who is not inside the County.

^fADT pendants are "panic buttons" that are worn around the neck of the victim. They can be used to summon help anywhere within a certain area of the victim's premises.

EXPLANATION:

The Sheriff's Office has recognized the importance of law enforcement's role in domestic violence. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is responsible for service of Exparte and Protective Orders that are issued when victims of domestic violence seek relief from abusive situations. In FY00, the Maryland Legislature passed a law enabling victims who are unable to utilize the Exparte Order process to file for Temporary Peace Orders. The Sheriff's Office serves these orders as well and treats them in the same manner as Protective Orders. On December 1, 2002, the names of these orders were changed, and a new "interim" order was established. Interim Protective Orders (and Interim Peace Orders) are issued by a commissioner and are designed to provide quick but temporary protection lasting for a few days. The interim order is usually followed by issuance of a Temporary Protective Order (the old Exparte Order) or a Temporary Peace Order, both of which are issued by a judge and are good for seven days. After that period, the court can choose to approve an extended Protective (or Peace) Order.

The yearly number of orders filed relating to domestic violence has increased steadily. Most victims are issued cell phones for calling 911, to give them an added line of defense. In addition, a partnership has been formed with ADT Security in order to provide ADT pendants ("panic buttons") to victims at especially high risk.

In FY99, the Sheriff's Office, at the request of District Court Judge Vaughney, began "welfare checks" of petitioners. During the seven days that the Temporary Protective or Temporary Peace Order is valid, the petitioner is potentially in the most danger. Recognizing this fact, the Sheriff's Office performs four "welfare checks" of the petitioner - two by phone and two at the premises to ensure that the victim is all right and that the respondent is not violating the order. (This is up from two welfare checks per petitioner prior to FY02.) Many such orders require the respondent to vacate the premises, and violating that order can result in an arrest. In FY03, two respondents were arrested during welfare checks for violating Temporary Protective Orders by being on the premises when the deputies were there conducting a welfare check.

PROGRAM PARTNERS IN SUPPORT OF OUTCOMES: District Court; Circuit Court; Abused Persons Programs; Maryland State Police; Montgomery County Police; ADT Security; Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

MAJOR RELATED PLANS AND GUIDELINES: Maryland Annotated Code 4-501 - 4-516, Article 27 Section 742, NCIC Code Manual, CJIS Reference Manual.